

MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
5241 North Maple, M/S TA 43  
Fresno, California 93740-8027

Office of the Academic Senate  
Ext. 8-2743

October 20, 2011

Members Present: V Crisco (Chair), E. Hughes, K. Putirka

Member Absent: C. Ogaja, B. Sethuramasamyraja

Visitors: John Beynon, Asao Inoue, Ellen Junn, Kim Morin

The meeting was called to order at 2PM by Chair Crisco in Library Room 4164

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 9/15/11
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements

There were none.

4. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Asao Inoue, Special Assistant to the Provost for Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), came to discuss his plans.
  - i. Asao discussed the WAC advisory council and what that group is charged to do: 1) Review GE and W course syllabi and materials to provide faculty development, and 2) discuss other WAC related issues.
  - ii. Asao's plans for the year include:
    1. Work with the writing center to do brown bags or workshops to demonstrate some of their practices that would be useable for teachers in writing classes; use it as a way to get faculty to the writing center to see what is available.
    2. Suvey what faculty want.
    3. Create and Manage focus groups for MyWritingLab and WriteClick.

4. Teach a WAC seminar in the spring: an 8 week course with a 1 week follow up at the end of the semester. Faculty will be paid, get a book, talk about ways to teach writing. The seminar can hold up to 12 faculty and will start with Tenure Track faculty as first priority. Faculty must be nominated by their chair or dean.
  5. Plan a WAC event for early spring.
- b. John Beynon, Upper Division Writing Coordinator, reports on changes to the UDWE:
- i. The campus no longer uses the CAAP skills assessment. It was too costly for the campus and there was not enough benefit for the cost. No other CSU uses the test. Additionally, Executive Order 514, which focuses on the writing skills requirement (1989), states that students have to be assessed by writing an essay and being read by two faculty readers.
  - ii. The timed writing portion of the test was changed.
    1. First question: Evaluate a reading and write an essay about it (focusing a what “They Say”, ie: incorporating information from an outside source). The reading for this prompt is about 700 words. Students are asked to consider what the writer says, characterize the author’s evidence, and evaluate the persuasiveness of the passage.
    2. Second question: Students are asked to insert themselves into an argument.
  - iii. For evaluating the writing, John moved from a 6-point scale to a 3-point scale. A passing score is 10 (ie: four readers’ scores from two different writing prompts added together).
  - iv. Materials to help students prepare for the exam have also been created.
  - v. The next order of business is to think about the new exam’s effectiveness.

MSC to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Writing Competency Subcommittee will be Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., Library, Room #4164.

## Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of 10/20/2011.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements
4. CLAS 102W syllabus
5. Visit from Faith Sidlow to discuss MyWritingLab / WriteClick
6. Visit from Kim Morin to discuss Criterion